

APPENDIX B.

REPORTS RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES.

The INSPECTING ENGINEER OF MINES to the UNDER-SECRETARY OF MINES.

SIR,—

Wellington, 31st March, 1919.

I have the honour to present my thirteenth annual report, together with statistical information, in regard to coal-mines of the Dominion, for the year ended 31st December, 1918.

The report is divided into the following sections :—

- I. Output of Mineral.
- II. Persons employed.
- III. Accidents.
- IV. General Remarks—
 - (a.) Exploration and Development of Coal Areas.
 - (b.) Safety Provisions.
 - (c.) Oil-shale Resources.

Annexures—

- A. Summary of Annual Reports by Inspectors of Mines.
- B. Colliery Statistics.

SECTION I.—OUTPUT.

The output of the several classes of coal mined in each inspection district is summarized as follows :—

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1918.				Total Output to the End of 1918.
	Northern District.	West Coast District.	Southern District.	Total.	
Bituminous and semi-bituminous*	Tons. 125,349	Tons. 996,959	Tons.	Tons. 1,122,308	Tons. 31,171,005
Brown	420,430	130	285,213	705,773	14,480,157
Lignite	3,999	...	202,170	206,169	2,541,678
Totals for 1918 ...	549,778	997,089	487,383	2,034,250	48,192,840
Totals for 1917 ...	470,638	1,146,778	451,003	2,068,419	46,158,590

* Including coal formerly classified as "pitch" coal.

The decline in output for 1918 amounts to 34,169 tons, being 2 per cent. of the total output. There was likewise a decline in the output per underground miner from 715 to 703 tons per annum, which also is in the proportion of 2 per cent. This alone accounts for the annual decrease of output; had it not been, however, for the epidemic, by which most of the mines were rendered idle for two or three weeks and to which sixty-six working coal-miners succumbed, there would have been an increased output for 1918. The considerable decline at bituminous collieries is partly attributable to shortage of miners on the West Coast.